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USIB-D-16.2/18
12 August 1959

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

Validity Study of NIE 12-58

Outlook for Stability in the Eastern European Satellites

Published 4 February 1958

The attached validity study of NIE 12-58 was noted by the Intelligence Board on 11 August 1959 (USIB-M-52, item 8 c).



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Executive Secretary

Attachment

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1. A number of the principal conclusions of NIE 12-58 still appear to be valid. For example, the estimates that the USSR had had "considerable success in reimposing party unity and general submissiveness among the people" and that "relative stability" would prevail have been borne out. Similarly, the estimates concerning the individual Satellite countries seem for the most part to have been sound.

2. Not foreseen in the previous estimate, however, was the shift of Soviet policy toward a harder line, as discussed in NIE 12-59. Soviet efforts to speed up socialization in all the Satellites (presumably except Poland), most apparent since the summer and fall of 1958, partially contradict the judgment of 12-58 that there would be no political innovations in Soviet policy for the next few years. Though the current estimate makes allowances for the continuation of anti-Communist and nationalistic attitudes among the Satellite peoples, it no longer foresees the relatively high level of "change and ferment" predicted by 12-58.